our fourfooted friends

Summer
1985

Animal Rescue League of Boston

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Animal Rescue League of Boston

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Our Fourfooted Friends

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Route 6A, E. Brewster, MA 02631-0023
Thomas H. White, *Manager*
(617) 255-1030

North Shore
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Pine Ridge Cemetery for Animals
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Michael P. Thomas, *Superintendent*
(617) 426-9170

Animal Friends Summer School
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(617) 563-6116

Affiliations

Red Acre Farm
Hearing Dog Center
109 Red Acre Road, Stow, MA 01775

New England Federation of Humane Societies
Boston, MA

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Denver, Colorado

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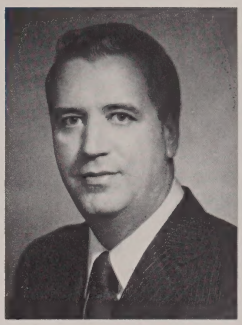
Cover:
Stray pup gets a beauty bath from animal care attendant Denise Von Stetton before going to its new home (see story p. 7).
Photo by Bob Howard

This issue was designed by Elizabeth Resnick.

A MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

Expanding Services to Animals



Arthur G. Slade
President

I am delighted to tell you that construction on our new animal adoption shelter in Dedham began in June. Completion of this unique shelter is expected to be in mid-October. It will be easily accessible to all suburban communities along Route 128 for the adoption of pets and other shelter services.

The new shelter will be known as the Safford Memorial Shelter for Dogs in memory of Ruth Appleton Perkins Safford and her husband, Captain Laurance Frye Safford, USN. Mrs. Safford was a professional artist and a long-time friend of the League who passed away three years ago. It is through the great generosity of a bequest from Mrs. Safford that this new facility is made possible.

The shelter will be located at 238 Pine Street in Dedham at the site of our Pine Ridge Cemetery for Small Pets which was established in 1907. It will have a lovely setting set well back from the street making an ideal rural environment for pets waiting for adoption. Plans also call for a sound barrier and acoustical fences to control noise in the area.

The construction plans call for the complete renovation of an existing building which formerly housed an office and workship area for Pine Ridge, plus the creation of a new kennel wing that will accommodate the dog adoption area. The new wing will provide 12 large indoor-outdoor pens with runs to shelter a maximum of 24 animals. The renovated area will house the office, new kennel room and a pet holding and examination room. Health care for the pets at the Dedham shelter, most of which will come down from Boston headquarters after receiving complete medical examinations, will be under the supervision of Keith Hopkins, D.V.M., director of veterinary medicine at the League.

Along with construction of the new shelter, the League will also be making other improvements to the grounds, including widening the driveway and creating a new parking area.

We are thrilled that this new shelter will provide adoption facilities for people in the surrounding suburban areas and avoid the need for such people to venture into the busy areas of Boston.

This is yet another opportunity for the League to continue and expand its policy of providing direct services to animals—a policy to which we have been dedicated to since the founding of the League as a direct service agency in 1899 by Anna Harris Smith.

Once the shelter is completed, we will plan an open house and dedication so you may all have a chance to visit the new Safford Memorial Shelter and see it in operation.

ANNUAL MEETING

Members and friends of the Animal Rescue League of Boston gathered at Boston headquarters Wednesday, April 17, to hear reports of the year's activities and to applaud the presentation of the League's Certificate of Appreciation to a heroic young man from Upton.

Arthur G. Slade, League president, presented the award to Charles K. Pedersen "for his heroic action in rescuing two drowning dogs, in the middle of the night, from the partially frozen Pratt Pond in Upton, Massachusetts."

In his president's message, Mr. Slade reported that a total of 58,797 animals had been served during the League's 85th year of service, thanks to the support received from over 16,000 members. He also described expansion of programs and facilities which had taken place during the year, including the enlargement and renovation of the Pet Adoption Center in Boston, and the plans previously announced for a new shelter in Dedham. Mr. Slade also expressed deep appreciation to the dedicated members of the League staff who made these services and programs possible.

One new director, Mrs. Jeffrey E. Marshall, was elected to the board of directors, and five directors were re-elected. They are: Walter M. Bird, Jr., Rev. Robert W. Golledge, D.D., Franklin King, Jr., Philip W. Trumbull, and John L. Worden, III.

Arthur G. Slade and John C. Hatch present Certificate of Appreciation to Charles K. Pedersen.

1985

Special guest speaker at the event was Dr. Charles Sedgewick, associate professor of wildlife and zoo medicine at Tufts University School of Veterinary Medicine. Dr. Sedgewick, who is director of the Wildlife Clinic at Tufts, which was featured in the Spring, 1985 issue of *Our Fourfooted Friends,* illustrated his presentation with a color slide show depicting the types of wildlife health problems that are encountered at the clinic.

Among the situations described, all of which represent learning opportunities for veterinary students, were an otter that required emergency treatment for a gunshot wound, a baby Peregrine falcon that had been hit by a car, and young squirrels that had gotten their tails knotted tightly together in the nest in a process called "braiding." Students were shown tackling such challenging tasks as cleaning a coyote's teeth and coaxing the animal to swallow a pill. He also described how they are able to save birds with injured or lost feathers by using a technique known as "imping," which involves replacing feathers with the use of stainless steel tubing and crazy glue.

Guest speaker Dr. Charles Sedgewick shows slide to League president Arthur Slade.

John C. Hatch, chairman of the board, welcomes new director Mrs. Jeffrey E. Marshall.

The dramatic rescue of 2 drowning dogs by Charles K. Pedersen as illustrated by Virginia Peck.

"Running A Foul"

First prize in the animal category of the Boston Press Photographers annual competition was awarded this year by Richard W. Bryant, representing the Animal Rescue League of Boston, to this photo by Nancy Palmieri of the Springfield Newspapers.

Care and Shelter

The Team Approach

Janice Bosworth and Brian Spratt, D.V.M. examining a feline guest at the League's headquarters.

On an average day at the League's Boston shelter there are likely to be some 100 cats and about 60 dogs in temporary residence, plus a few rabbits, gerbils and other small miscellaneous animals. The animals range from the very young to well past middle age, and they come in every conceivable color and shape. Some are well loved pets that families have had to give up; others have never known security or shelter in their short lives. They come from the greater Boston area, as well as from communities as far west as Framingham and as far south as Scituate.

Despite their diverse backgrounds though, these animals all have one thing in common when they arrive at the League—the warm welcome they receive from the staff members who will serve as their "foster family" for the coming days or weeks.

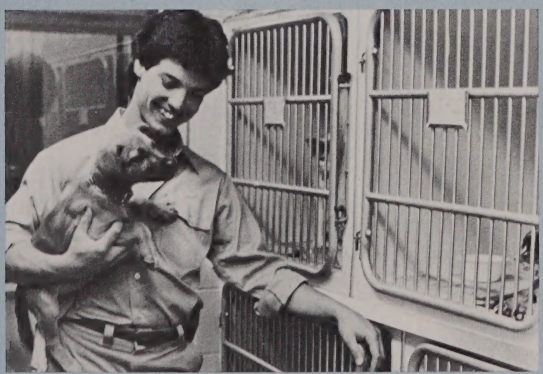
Continued on the next page...

Fred Clark checking in a new guest.

Whether a pet is brought in by its owner or by a League agent, the first person it encounters at the League is usually Fred Clark, a staff member for the past 24 years. As kennel master, Fred keeps scrupulous records of every animal that enters the building and supervises the lost and found program. If an animal is being given up, he obtains from its former owner whatever information will help facilitate the adoption process, including breed and background; sleep, play and eating habits; personality traits; and whether the animal has been spayed or neutered.

Animals are next assigned to different rooms, depending on whether they are unwanted pets, strays or animals that are obviously ill or injured. Strays are held for a waiting period to allow time for their owners to be located—dogs for seven days, cats for five days. About 98% of those that are reunited with their owners are claimed within the first four days. All animals are immediately examined by a League veterinarian and those that are found to be healthy are moved as quickly as possible to the adoption area. Of a total of over 200 animal pens or cages, 54 are set aside for adoptions, and an additional 21 are reserved for those waiting to enter the adoption area. As spaces become available, they will move into the display area where they can be selected by prospective pet owners.

Robert Walsh, shelter manager, with a guest puppy.



Shelter manager Robert Walsh explains that the staff's primary goal is to move animals as quickly as possible to the adoption area and out to their new homes. "By streamlining and updating our procedures, we are now able to get an unwanted dog or cat into adoption in as short a time as half a day," Walsh says. If the animal needs to be spayed or neutered, adoption is delayed by only one day. And once in the adoption area, all animals are ensured of a new home. "Unless a major health or behavior problem develops, there is no time limit on how long an animal will be kept—we'll keep it as long as it takes to arrange an adoption," he emphasizes.

"We've kept a dog with three legs here for a month before it was finally adopted. We also had a blind cat here for a month and a half, but we finally found a home for it after a Boston Herald newspaper story was published."

One old cat that no one seemed to want after a month of waiting was finally taken home by Denise Von Stetton, a member of the team of dedicated kennel attendants who feed, groom and lavish care and affection on the fourfooted guests throughout their stay at the League. "My biggest satisfaction on this job is seeing the animals get new homes—especially the ones that nobody seems to want," she says. Like most of the staff, Denise, who has an associate degree in animal science, is at the shelter because she loves animals.

"Meals on wheels" provided by Leon Caragulian.

For Leon Caragulian, a University of Massachusetts student studying equine sciences who has worked as a kennel attendant for the past three summers, reciprocal affection is a major on-the-job benefit. "No matter how cruelly animals have been treated in the past, they always respond to affection. When you arrive in the morning, they're always happy to see you!"

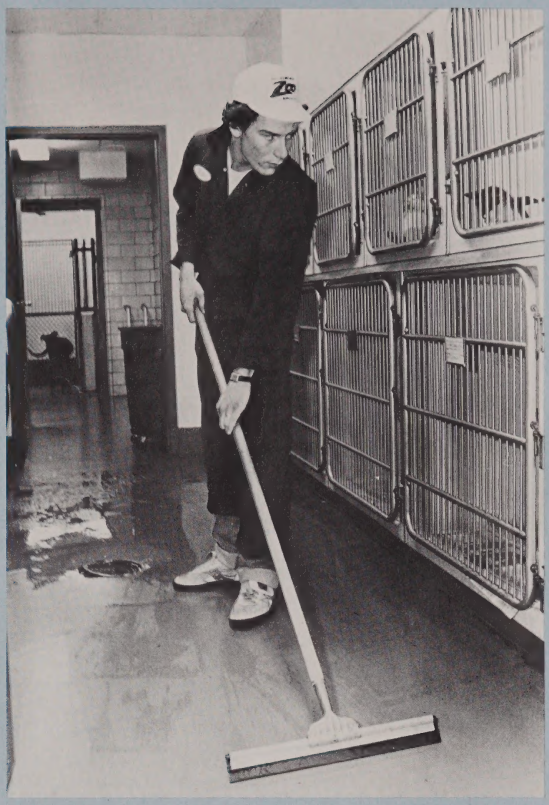
This caring attitude is shared by all of the other members of the animal care team, including kennel attendants Patrick Bagley, Janice Bosworth, Bill Brothers, Debra Dailey, Helen Henderson, Steven Merrigan, Chris Plyem and Ed Hrul, who mans the night shift; Frank Carmichael, who acts as staff liaison between the shelter and the clinic; and assistant kennel master Steven Foley. In addition to his supervisory duties in the shelter, Foley frequently assists the ambulance drivers on weekends and once scaled an open drawbridge in Chelsea to rescue a dog that got caught in the bridge mechanism and had its paws broken.

Julie Sword, pet adoption supervisor.

Perhaps the highlight of an animal's stay at the League is the day it meets Julie Sword who, as pet adoption supervisor, is responsible for finding new homes for over 4,000 animals each year. As a matchmaker for pets and people, Julie is primarily concerned that the matches be lasting ones. She conducts thorough interviews with prospective pet owners to be sure that they are both able and willing to provide proper care and shelter before placing an animal for adoption.

While the average daily animal census is around 160, the number of animals in need of care is much higher in the summer, after the spring peak birth period. Last August, for example, over 1,300 animals were cared for during one month alone. Maintaining an adequate inventory of food and supplies for these needy visitors requires a monumental monthly shopping list. According to Bob Walsh, they consume 50 cases of cat food every 10 days, 25 50-lb. bags of dog food every month, and 10 25-lb. bags of puppy chow. At least a ton of kitty litter is well utilized each month, and the League also relies heavily on donations of old newspapers to use as cage liners.

The entire staff always has a warm welcome for two-footed visitors as well as four-footed ones, Walsh concludes. For anyone who would like to give a pet a good home, the Robert W. Marks Pet Adoption Center, which is the official name of the headquarters shelter, is now open seven days a week, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m., including Saturdays and Sundays.



Bill Brothers working to maintain a drier environment.

Steven Foley sends a pet home with its new owner.

Crane Reservation: An Update

The Marksman Program Report At The Trustees Of Reservations' Crane Memorial Reservation was written and completed by the Animal Rescue League of Boston and the Massachusetts Society For The Prevention of Cruelty To Animals in June of 1985.

During the late winter of this past year, we recognized that TTOR intended to proceed with employment of a marksman to destroy selected deer at Crane Reservation. At that point the ARLB and MSPCA expressed concern that the process be accomplished in the most humane manner and be restricted to unhealthy, distressed, or deteriorated deer. Faced with this reality the ARLB asked the TTOR to allow a veterinary observer to be present during the removal of the deer. The MSPCA shared these ARLB concerns and the advisor-observer program became a joint effort between the two organizations.

A total of nineteen deer were observed being shot by the marksman. The veterinarians concur that in eighteen of the nineteen cases, the marksman's bullet caused each deer to become immediately insensible to pain by inducing cerebral dysfunction and unconsciousness.

One deer viewed by the ARLB veterinarian sustained a shot which was inaccurately placed by a marginal degree. This and the observed responses prompted uncertainty as to whether complete unconsciousness, and therefore complete absence of pain sensation, had been produced in that instance. A second shot was promptly administered, relieving any possible suffering and producing death.

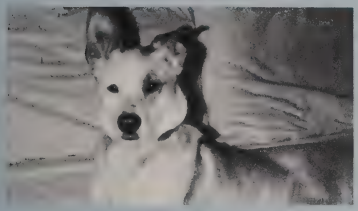
The incident demonstrates that even with a skilled marksman, risk exists with remote delivery modes of euthanasia. The need, in a majority of cases for a second and subsequent shot to cause death, even though sensation of pain was completely eliminated with one gunshot, demonstrates why modification of equipment (i.e., higher caliber firearm/bullet) would be appropriate if programs of this nature were unavoidable.

Gunshot as a method of euthanasia is recognized as aesthetically objectionable and can be distressing to people exposed to it. Gunshot, if properly employed, nonetheless, can be humane in terms of having an initial depressive action of the central nervous system, ensuring an immediate insensitivity to pain.

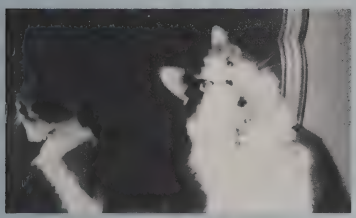
The ARLB concluded that they could not endorse this marksman program for the future if TTOR does not address certain issues raised and recommendations discussed in the complete report.

The final report is available by calling or writing to the Animal Rescue League of Boston, P.O. Box 265, Boston, MA 02117 or telephone (617) 426-9170.

PETS IN THE PICTURE



"Goldie," adopted by **Robert Boyd** of Dorchester, sends a personal message: "No need to publish my picture—just say 'thanks' to the staff for being very kind to me. And will you notify me when I should come in for shots?" Sure thing, "Goldie!"



"Chin Chin" belongs to **Augusta Waters** of Carver, who writes: "Chin Chin" is 15 years old, named for the black spot under her chin. Here she is sitting on my bureau, posing nicely in front of the mirror."

Here's **"Sherlock"** who was adopted by **John G. MacPhail** of Boston in 1982. "What a joy he has been to us and how happy he is with us," his owner writes, adding a postscript: "He does not wear the shirt all the time—just for photo sessions."

Tammy Hamond of Marblehead adopted **"Sneaker"** in 1974. "I received him just after my sister was born and my other cat, 'Georgie,' died. I had just started my first year in school and I don't know what I would have done without him," she writes.

Mr. and Mrs. Roy Doeg of Brockton send this photo of their four dogs (l to r) **"Sasha," "Jessie," "Ziggy"** and **"George."** "Every one of these animals is good-hearted, loyal and gentle. Each one was an unwanted street dog but with the proper care and attention any animal can provide as much enjoyment as these animals have provided for us."

Gloria Colby of Arlington sends this photo as an example of brotherly love between her two cats, **"Meow"** and **"Skippy,"** adding her thanks for the kindness of the League staff.

Mr. and Mrs. J. Lombardo of Somerville send along this photo of their pet **"Nickie"** who was adopted in 1979. "Nickie" had been an abandoned pet, but he's obviously living a life of solid comfort today.

From **Mrs. Kathleen Loveland** of Marblehead comes this photo of 14-year old **"Bruno"** taking a snooze with Benjamin Loveland, 3½. "We got him at the Salem Shelter when he was six weeks old," she writes. "He has been and continues to be a wonderful dog and a loving friend."

Rescue
is our
middle name.
A non-profit humane society providing rescue, protection, shelter and adoption for animals since 1899. Our headquarters is located at 10 Chandler Street (corner of Arlington & Tremont Streets) in Boston. Other shelters located in Salem, Dedham, and E. Brewster.
426-9170
Animal Rescue League
of Boston
Illustration by Ellen Chase Botkin

NEWSFRONT
ANIMAL RESCUE LEAGUE OF BOSTON

League Staffers Conduct Dramatic Dog Rescue

In April, the League was contacted by the Melrose Humane Society to help rescue a litter of seven puppies and their parents who had taken shelter in a cave high on a cliff in Pine Banks Park. The park is a popular recreation spot and it was extremely urgent that the animals be moved before school vacation, since the adult dogs could be very aggressive toward humans in attempting to protect their young. A rescue team, led by League agent Alan Borgal, used a four-wheel drive truck to bring rescue staff and equipment to the top of the rocky terrain. It was necessary to use a tranquilizer gun to quiet the mother dog so that the rescuers could crawl into the cave to remove the puppies (see photos), all of whom were in good health and adoptable.

Photo by Robert Fennessy

League Agents Train To Inspect Research Labs

Members of the Animal Rescue League staff recently completed a week-long seminar sponsored by the Massachusetts Department of Public Health and designed to train League agents to inspect animal research facilities as authorized agents of the Department of Public Health. From left to right are inspection agents Edward Powers, Carol McCarthy, Dr. Edward Leonard, Dr. Khalil Sharifzadeh of the Department of Public Health, Alan Borgal and Richard W. Bryant.

N.E. Federation Meets

The New England Federation of Humane Societies recently held their 48th Annual Meeting and Conference in Laconia, New Hampshire. The meeting was sponsored by The New Hampshire Humane Society, which is celebrating its 85th Anniversary this year. Fritz Sabbow, current president of the Federation and executive director of The New Hampshire Humane Society (Laconia, N.H.) hosted the meeting at the Margate Hotel.

The three day meeting included a day for humane education isssues and two days devoted entirely to the business and management concerns of humane societies. The New England Federation met to unify their efforts for the protection of animals, assess humane education programs, and discuss current and future issues in the animal welfare movement.

Pet Show Set For Mid-Summer

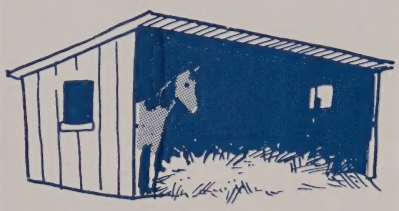
The Animal Rescue League of Boston will hold its annual Pet Show Saturday, July 27, 10 a.m., at Nye Park in North Falmouth. The parade of pets, with prizes awarded based on quality of care and the bonds that exist between the pets and their young owners, is a highlight of the League's Animal Friends Summer School program, a day camp program for youngsters from 6 to 13. Session II of the summer school program will run from July 22 to August 16. For further information, contact Director, Animal Friends Summer School, P.O. Box 800, North Falmouth, Mass. 02556.

Tax Returns Continue To Benefit Non-Game Wildlife

As the Massachusetts Revenue Department staff continue to process late returns, they have issued an update on contributions to the Non-Game Wildlife Fund through the tax checkoff provided on the 1984 return forms. At last count, 58,634 taxpayers had made donations totaling $239,957. These funds will be used to protect, manage and study rare and endangered species in the state.

Adopt-A-Cat Month Observed At League

June was Adopt-a-Cat month at the Animal Rescue League of Boston and at shelters all across the nation. Morris, the 9-Lives cat, acts as official spokescat for this annual observance, which is sponsored by the American Humane Association and 9-Lives Cat Food in an effort to find more good homes for unwanted cats and kittens. Anyone who adopted a cat in June received a Morris cat care package, which included a book on cat care, an adoption certificate and a supply of 9-Lives Cat Food coupons.



State Offers New Manual For Horseowners

To provide horseowners with easy access to information on the care and handling of their animals, the Massachusetts Department of Food and Agriculture has published a new handbook covering all of the state laws and regulations that apply to horse care. *The Massachusetts Horseman's Manual* covers laws pertaining to riding instructors, stables, horse transport, horse boarding and animal cruelty, as well as information on riding trails, horse nutrition and other aspects of responsible horse ownership. For information on obtaining copies, write: Patricia Rule, Supervisor of Riding Acadamies, Massachusetts Department of Food and Agriculture, 100 Cambridge Street, Boston, Mass. 02202.

Current Movies

The American Humane Association has established the following motion picture classification standards to provide a reliable and serviceable film guide for parents and others interested in assessing the impact of a given film.

Acceptable: American Humane was on location to monitor animal action and to ensure humane treatment. Scenes appearing to endanger animals are simulated.

Believed Acceptable: The Association was not on location to monitor animal action, but after screening or script review, American Humane representatives concluded the film producer complied with Association standards and intentions.

Questionable: American Humane personnel not on the scene. Animal action and treatment is in doubt.

Unacceptable: Outright cruelty to animals during production.

Acceptable:
Baby, a Touchstone Production for Walt Disney Pictures
Cat's Eye, an MGM/UA release
Creator, Kings Road Production released by Universal Pictures
Fletch, a Douglas/Greisman Production released by Universal Pictures
Fright Night, Columbia Pictures Production
Girls Just Want to Have Fun, a New World Picture
Mask, A Marstar Production for Universal Pictures
Moving Violations, a Moving Violations Co. Production released by Twentieth Century Fox

Believed Acceptable:
Americana, A Skip Sherwood film for U.A. Classics
Birdy, An A & M Film, distributed by Tri-Star
Gotcha, A Michael I. Levy Production released by Universal Pictures
Gymkata, A Fred Weintraub Production released by MGM/UA
Pale Rider, a Malpaso Production for Warner Brothers Inc.

"As you know, Mrs. Smith, your late husband was quite an animal lover."

The League continues to rely on the generosity of its friends to meet the ever-expanding needs of our animal population. The cruel realism of inflation makes the League's task in providing needed services more difficult than ever, but with continued support, the challenge can and will be met.

In making a bequest to the League in your Will, please remember that the corporate title of our society is
"Animal Rescue League of Boston,"
that is was incorporated in 1899, and has no connection with any other similar society.

Form of Bequest

I give to the Animal Rescue League of Boston the sum of

_____ dollars.

Animal Rescue League of Boston
10 Chandler Street
Boston, Massachusetts 02116

Kind, loving, loyal, warm, playful...

a friend.

We have healthy pups, kittens and older pets waiting for loving people who care. Call today!

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A Non-Profit Humane Society Helping Animals Since 1899.

Please let us know if you're planning to move so we can be sure that you receive OUR FOURFOOTED FRIENDS without interruption.

Old Address:

Name _____

Street _____

City _____ State_____ Zip_____

(please print or attach mailing label)

New Address:

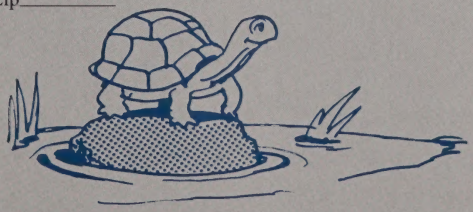
Name _____

Street _____

City _____ State_____ Zip_____

Moving?

Please allow two months for us to correct our mailing list.



Our models are Deborah Jackson (right) and Lesley Corbett (left) of West Roxbury, MA.

T-Shirts and Sweatshirts for Youngsters and Adults

T-Shirts in light blue

Children's Sizes:
Small (6–8) Medium (10–12) Large(14–16)
$7.00

Adult Sizes:
Small (36) Medium (40) Large (42) X-Large (44)
$8.00

Sweatshirts in red

Children's Sizes:
Small (6–8) Medium (10–12) Large (14–16)
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Adult Sizes:
Small (36) Medium (40) Large (42) X-Large (44)
$11.00

Order Form:

T-Shirts: Children's size(s)_____ at $7.00 each
Adult size(s)_____ at $8.00 each
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Adult size(s)_____ at $11.00 each

Costs include postage and packaging.

Name _____

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City _____

State _____ Zip _____

Enclosed is my check in the total amount of _____, made payable to the Animal Rescue League of Boston.
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Boston, MA 02117

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